

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended; claims 4 and 9 are cancelled; claim 2 is original, all other claims were previously presented. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

### Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A composition for well cementing comprising:
  - i. a pumpable slurry of cement,
  - ii. water and
  - iii. a material having residual water-absorption properties after the setting of the cement, so that said material is susceptible to swell in contact with underground water in case of failure of the cement matrix.wherein the ~~super-absorbent polymer~~ material is provided in a capsule that releases said material in response to exposure of the cement to at least one downhole parameter and is added to the slurry dry-blended with the cement.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said material is a super-absorbent polymer.
3. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 1, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is selected from the list consisting of polymethacrylate and polyacrylamide or a non-soluble acrylic polymers.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added at a concentration between 0.05% and 3.2% by weight of cement.
6. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 further comprising a salt.

7. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 6, wherein said salt is sodium chloride or calcium chloride.
8. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added under the form of particles ranging from 10 $\mu$ m to 1500 $\mu$ m.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 1, whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material when the cement matrix cracks.
11. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of dispersing agent, fluid loss control agent, set retarder, set accelerator and anti-foaming agent.
12. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material in response to exposure of the cement to at least one downhole parameter.
13. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material when the cement matrix cracks.
14. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of dispersing agent, fluid loss control agent, set retarder, set accelerator and anti-foaming agent.